

Greenwood becomes state's 209th FFA chapter

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enthusiasm. They are willing to tackle anything."

This attitude of enthusiasm and determination apparently has rubbed off on the students from the corps of interested area residents who attended almost every school board meeting for three years to show their support of returning a vo-ag program to the Greenwood High School.

"I was a junior in high school in 1964 when the vo-ag program was dropped," Cauffman recalled.

"I remember how I felt when I realized I couldn't get my Keystone Degree.

"The group of citizens kept pushing during the past three years, but the decision wasn't made to bring the vo-ag program back until last August.

"Well, where are you going to find a teacher at that time?"

"But when you work for three years to get it started, you can't let something like not having an ag teacher get in the way."

So, the Penn State grad in dairy production, who also is involved in the family's 700-acre dairy, hog and cash grain operation named Agrophilos, Inc., now finds himself as an ag instructor and FFA advisor for the present school year until a regular teacher can be found for next year.

"I enjoy it a lot," he explains with a sparkle in his eye.

"The only trouble is that I don't have enough time to do everything.

"I feel that there's not enough time to teach in the right way and then there's not enough time for the farming."

But the time was sufficient and appropriate Thursday night in the

school district's new elementary school for one of the most impressive and sincere Greenhand initiation ceremonies ever held in the state.

After all, it's not many Greenhands that get inducted into the FFA by just about the entire slate of Pa. FFA Association officers.

Six state FFA officers showed up Thursday night to welcome the Greenwood Greenhands and show their support for their newest constituents.

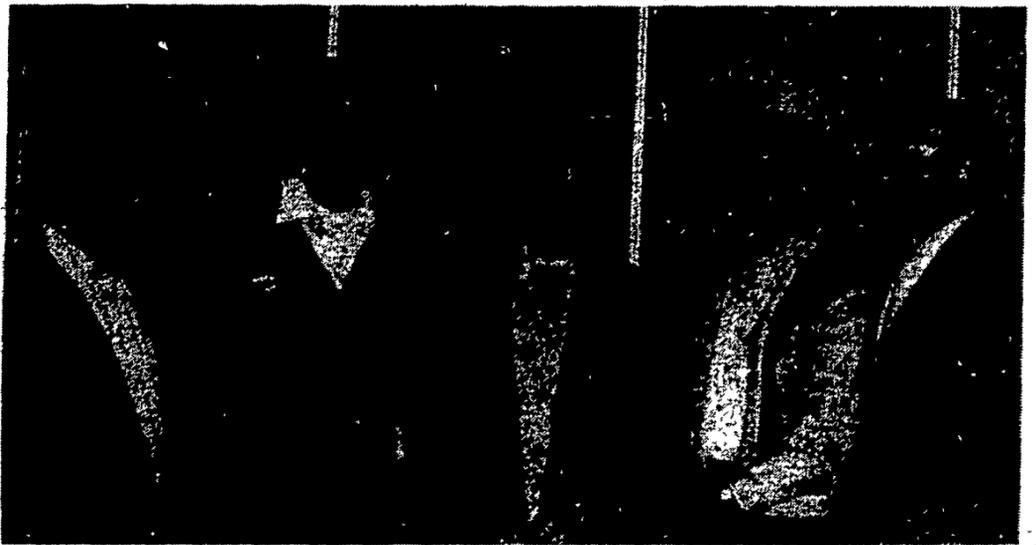
On hand were Doug Hershberger, Quarryville, president; Glenn Wenger, Myerstown, vice president; Dean Patches, Lebanon, secretary; Kevin Devine, New Holland, treasurer; Andy Rull, regional vice president; and Kent Heffner, Pine Grove, chaplain.

The state officers staged a very impressive ceremony and, by acting out a couple of skits, conveyed the important message to the new Greenhands that "they will only get out of FFA exactly what they put into it."

Although the Greenwood Chapter of the FFA and the Greenwood vo-ag program are only a few months old, they already have a lengthy list of mutual accomplishments.

Chapter members have sold 400 cases of citrus fruit, had competing dairy and livestock judging teams, built a prize-winning Halloween float, converted apples from an abandoned orchard into a profitable cider sale, sent two members each to the recent national convention and leadership training and organized Thursday night's ceremony.

In their beginning courses of



Group of Perry County residents who were instrumental in getting a vo-ag program back into Greenwood High School at Millerstown includes, from the left, Lloyd Byers, R1 Liverpool; Raymond Sheaffer, R1 Liverpool;

Glenn Cauffman, R1 Millerstown; who is serving as instructor and advisor; Tom Baithaser, R1 Millerstown; and Meryl Brofee, R2 Millerstown.

study, they're investigating animal science and moving into small engines, welding, electrical wiring, plumbing and hydraulics and, in the spring, plant science, forestry and timbering.

As an example of how all of this is done in so short of time is the comment made during the evening's program concerning the national convention.

Concerning adviser Cauffman, it was said:

"He chaperoned two students to the convention taking time away from being behind the wheel of the combine in the soybeans."

A report on the national convention was given by Myron Byers, chapter president; and David Bratton, chapter treasurer.

The thirty members of the Chapter who were inducted as Greenhands include:

Myron Byers, Mike Sarver, Wade Sarver, David Bratton, Raymond McGowen, Tom Gotthel, James Lower, Douglas Bowersox, James Boyer, Mike Buckley, Troy Byers, Ronald Criley, Bill Culwell, Douglas Curl, Laura Donnelly, Royal Donnelly, Troy Earney, Thomas Egenrieder.

Also, Larry Fisher, Donald Kegg, Clifford Mangle, David McCreary, Ralph Pannebaker, David Reisinger, Raymond Sheaffer, John Stemler, John Swartz, Tracy Swartz, Randy Tolbert and Russell Ferguson.



Returning to Greenwood High School to help observe the resumption of a vo-ag program is Ted Furry, right, who was instructor when the program was dropped in 1964. Furry is now with the Perry County Conservation District. Furry was instructor for Glenn Cauffman, left, who is now serving in that capacity for the program's first year.

Tax bills

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penalty for working," stated State Grange Master Charles Wismer. "If a farmer doesn't farm the land, there are no taxes to be paid. And, if there are no cows in the barn, there is no business use or occupancy tax."

The Pennsylvania Farmers Association submitted their testimony on Tuesday, also in opposition.

The farm organization cited evidence that farm taxpayers in Pennsylvania pay a proportionally higher share of their personal income in property taxes than most other taxpayers. And, PFA pointed out, the business use or occupancy tax would not solve the problem.

"Some taxpayers subject to business use or occupancy taxation may be able to shift their tax burden to their customer, employees, or owners. The farm producer does not have this option."

PFA also stressed that eliminating the residence from the BUO tax would not lessen the burden since percentage-wise, the home represented a small portion of the farm property's assessed value.

They also pointed out that the proposed legislation would eliminate the school property tax entirely for those districts opting into the program. "This move seems inappropriate," state PFA. "From a school district perspective, greater flexibility and stability in tax revenues would be enhanced by providing for a mix of school property and personal income taxation."

The Pennsylvania School Boards Association has a record in agreement with the PFA analysis. They commented that "local needs over... a rigid tax structure cannot satisfactorily solve the needs of all school districts."

PFA also noted that the agreement to make school

districts choose between a real estate tax or an income tax, but not a combination of the two, was not satisfactory. "Property taxes should not be eliminated as an option", they said, referring to real estate taxes as a "stable and reliable source of local revenue."

The schools' representative also condemned the BUO tax, citing its inability to generate the necessary income for local school districts. The BUO tax, they said, is "ineffective and inefficient."

Is anyone in favor of SB 1085-1086 as it is presently written? According to Senator Clarence Manbeck, the senior citizens are backing the bill. These elderly taxpayers who own property in Pennsylvania would receive some tax relief with the bill's passage. However, those older people who are renting homes would not benefit.

If SB 1085-1086 isn't the answer, then what is? To try to find out, PFA funded a Penn State study back in 1974 to determine if increasing state income taxes to finance schools and abolishing real estate taxes for school purposes was a feasible solution.

The study, which was conducted by ag economics professor Theodore R. Alter, revealed that "any shift from taxing property to taxing personal income would affect the tax burdens for four income classes in nonfarm and farm sectors and for all taxpayers."

In looking at the alternative of a combination flat rate state income tax and a local school property tax, the study showed that this would offer a lower tax burden for farm income than the property tax only, but the tax burden would still be higher for farm income than nonfarm."

A flat rate state income tax as a full replacement for school property tax, Alter showed, would offer a significant reduction in tax burden for each income class of taxable farm income.

"Perhaps the most viable option involves some combination of real property taxation and state or local income taxation to finance public schools... ensuring maximum local fiscal flexibility for schools and local governments," summarized Alter.

He stressed that when property is owned by absentee landlords not residing in Pennsylvania, the property tax is exported from the state. And that any shift from a property tax to a local or state income tax would eliminate this source of revenue which would increase the tax burden for local taxpayers.

Several amendments added to the bill by the Senate before its passage will be under further study. As written, the bill would permit unlimited levying of income taxes to the extent necessary to repay any lost property taxes. And, the bill states the BUO tax shall cover those using or occupying real property, whether or not for profit. This would ensure that agricultural co-ops would have to pay the tax.

The Pennsylvania Farmers Union, like Governor Richard Thornburgh, is interested in some sort of tax reform. However, they call SB 1085-1086 a "two-sided

argument" and have taken no position on the bill.

"We see SB 1085-1086's merits and its disadvantages," said spokesman James Gract. "We have concerns about the BUO tax and the possibility of double taxation for

farmers.

"There is a need for property tax reform, but we're still unsure which, if any of the currently proposed bills, would meet our approval."

Rhein buys top Jersey

OLEY — Pine Grove Jersey breeder Craig Rhein paid \$1,550 for the high-selling Jersey during the recent Waid Farms Dispersal Sale.

Rhein's purchase, one of 57 animals in the sale, was M.V.F. Finalist Gypsy, sired by Finalist of Marlu.

Lancaster County dairyman, Ivan Zimmerman bought the

second high-selling animal. Zimmerman of East Earl paid \$1,425 for W.F. Jeweler Cindy, sired by Generators Jeweler.

Third high-selling was Trade Lux Soap purchased by Nancy Seidel of Lenhartsville for \$1,350.

Top buyer of the day was Ammon K. Weaver, Jonestown, who bought 13 head for a total of \$8,150.

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